REMARKS

Claims 31-33, 35-37, 48-52 and 61-71, are pending in the instant application. Claims 48 and 61 are allowable. In order to simplify the issues, and to pursue preferred embodiments of the invention claims 31 and 35 were cancelled without prejudice to the prosecution thereof in a subsequent application. Claims 32, 33, 36, 37, 51 and 52, were amended to redraft claims in independent format and to provide proper dependency so that they do not depend from a cancelled claim. Claims 49-52, and 62-71, as well as claims 67 and 71, were amended as requested by the Office to remove minor informalities regarding objectionable claim language. Dependent claims 72-75 were added to provide claims of various scope encompassed by the present invention; said claims are supported throughout the specification and claims (e.g., including claims 32-33, 36-37 and 48-52). No new matter was added by these amendments. Applicant believes the case is in condition for allowance. A marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment, "Explanation Of Amendments With Markings," is provided. An Appendix with the instant claim set is provided for the Examiner's convenience, and shall not be construed as submission of a re-presented claim set under 37 CFR §1.121.

A. Rejections Addressed from March 5, 2003 Office Action (OA)

(1) Rejection of claims 31 and 35, and 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 31, 35, 51 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Novak, et al., (US Patent No. 6,307,024, October 23, 2001; filed March 9 2000). (OA, p. 2-3) As claims 31 and 35 have been canceled this rejection is moot as applied thereto. Moreover, claims 51 and 52 were amended so that they no longer depend from claims 31 and 35 respectively, but from claims 32 and 36, which have been redrafted as independent claims; therefore this rejection is moot as applied thereto. Moreover, newly added claims 72-76 depend from instant claim 36. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of instant claims 51 and 52, and as may apply to newly added claims 72-75, be properly withdrawn and the case allowed.

B. Objections Addressed from March 5, 2003 Office Action (OA)

(1) Objection of claims 32, 33, 36, and 37 as being dependent on a rejected base claim

Claims 32, 33, 36, and 37 were objected to because "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form." (OA, p. 4) Claims 31 and 35 were cancelled. Applicant has amended the claims 32 and 36 so that they are in independent format; and claims 33 and 37 were amended so that they depend from claims 32 and 36 respectively. The instant claims no longer depend from a cancelled claim. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection as it applies to claims 51, 52 be properly withdrawn.

(2) Objection of claims 49-52 and 62-71 for minor informalities

Dependent claims 49-52 and 62-71 were objected to because the claims recite "An" rather than "The." (OA, p. 4) Claims 49-52 and 62-71 were amended so that they properly recite "The." Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection as it applies to claims 49-52 and 62-71 be properly withdrawn.

In addition, for consistency, Applicant corrected typographical errors in claims 65, 67, 69, and 71 changing "class" to "Class". Correction of these typographical errors does not materially change the claims nor add new matter.

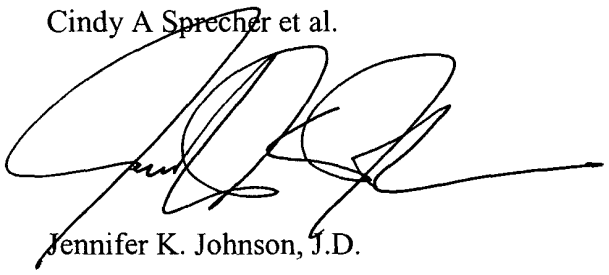
(3) Objection of claims 67 and 71 for lack of antecedent basis

Dependent claims 67 and 71 were objected to because the claims recite an "isolated polypeptide" with insufficient antecedent basis. (OA, p. 4) Claims 67 and 71 were amended so that they properly recite a "heterodimeric receptor complex" having antecedent basis from the claims from which they depend. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection as it applies to claims 67 and 71 be properly withdrawn.

Early reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. If the Patent Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this patent application, please call the undersigned at (206) 442-6676.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy A Sprecher et al.



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Enclosures:

Amendment Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)

Petition and Fee for 3 Month Extension of Time (in duplicate)

Appendix (4 pages)

Postcard

APPENDIX

Claim Set with Amended Claims

What is claimed is:

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated soluble receptor polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the soluble receptor polypeptide forms a heterodimeric or multimeric receptor complex; and wherein the soluble receptor polypeptide forms a heterodimeric or multimeric receptor complex further comprising a soluble Class I cytokine receptor; and

wherein the heterodimeric or multimeric receptor complex binds a ligand comprising a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:10, or antagonizes the ligand activity.

33. The isolated polypeptide according to claim 32, wherein the soluble receptor polypeptide forms a heterodimeric or multimeric receptor complex comprising a soluble IL-2Rγ receptor polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:4).

36. An isolated heterodimeric or multimeric soluble receptor complex comprising soluble receptor subunits, wherein at least one of soluble receptor subunits comprises a soluble receptor polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, and further comprising a soluble Class I cytokine receptor polypeptide.

37. The isolated heterodimeric or multimeric soluble receptor complex according to claim 36, further comprising a soluble IL-2Rγ receptor polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:4).

48. An isolated heterodimeric receptor complex comprising two soluble receptor subunits, wherein the first soluble receptor subunit consists of a soluble receptor polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, and the second

receptor subunit consists of a soluble receptor polypeptide comprising soluble IL-2Rγ receptor polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:4).

49. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 48, wherein the heterodimeric receptor complex binds a ligand comprising a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:10, or antagonizes the ligand activity.

50. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 48, wherein at least one of the soluble receptor subunits further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, toxin, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

51. The isolated heterodimeric or multimeric receptor soluble complex according to claim 36, wherein the soluble receptor complex further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, toxin, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

52. The isolated soluble receptor polypeptide according to claim 32, wherein the soluble receptor polypeptide further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, toxin, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

61. An isolated heterodimeric receptor complex consisting of two soluble receptor subunits, wherein the first soluble receptor subunit consists of a soluble receptor polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, and the second receptor subunit consists of a soluble receptor polypeptide comprising soluble IL-2Rγ receptor polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:4).

62. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 61, wherein the heterodimeric receptor complex binds a ligand comprising a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:10 or antagonizes the ligand activity.

63. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 61, wherein at least one of the soluble receptor subunits further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, toxin, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.

64. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 61, wherein at least one of the soluble receptor subunits further comprises a transmembrane domain.

65. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 64, wherein the transmembrane domain is from a Class I cytokine receptor.

66. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 61, wherein at least one of the soluble receptor subunits further comprises a transmembrane domain, and an intracellular domain from a cytokine receptor.

67. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 66, wherein the intracellular domain is from a Class I cytokine receptor.

68. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 61, wherein both of the soluble receptor subunits further comprise a transmembrane domain.

69. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 68, wherein the transmembrane domain is from a Class I cytokine receptor.

70. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 61, wherein both of the soluble receptor subunits further comprise a transmembrane domain, and an intracellular domain from a cytokine receptor.

71. The isolated heterodimeric receptor complex according to claim 70, wherein the intracellular domain is from a Class I cytokine receptor.

72. The isolated heterodimeric or multimeric soluble receptor complex comprising soluble receptor subunits according to claim 36, wherein at least one of soluble receptor subunits comprises a soluble receptor polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, and wherein at least one other of the soluble receptor subunits comprises a soluble receptor polypeptide comprising a Class I cytokine receptor polypeptide.

73. The isolated heterodimeric or multimeric soluble receptor complex according to claim 72, wherein the Class I cytokine receptor polypeptide comprises a soluble IL-2Rγ receptor polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:4).

74. The isolated heterodimeric or multimeric soluble receptor complex according to claim 72, wherein the heterodimeric or multimeric soluble receptor complex binds a ligand comprising a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:10, or antagonizes the ligand activity.

75. The isolated heterodimeric or multimeric soluble receptor complex according to claim 72, wherein at least one of the soluble receptor subunits further comprises an affinity tag, label, chemical moiety, toxin, biotin/avidin label, radionuclide, enzyme, substrate, cofactor, inhibitor, fluorescent marker, chemiluminescent marker, toxin, cytotoxic molecule or an immunoglobulin Fc domain.